

# Rare Plants of Louisiana



## *Eleocharis elongata* - slim spikerush Sedge Family (Cyperaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S3/G5?

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** NC west to TX; Mexico, Central and South America

### Recognition:

- A slender spikerush, with bluntly three-angled to round stems that are 0.5 to 1.5 mm thick; fertile stems to 80 cm tall, erect or reclining and partially floating
- Spikes cylindrical, about as wide as the supporting stem, 1 to 2.5 cm long
- When submersed, stems are very soft and flaccid, not spike-bearing, referred to by some residents in south Louisiana as “angel hair”
- Scales of the spike bearing a brown to black band near their margins



Dense stand of *E. elongata* – stems slender and spikes about as wide as supporting stems

**Fruiting Time:** Spring – Summer

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

### Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

### Habitat:

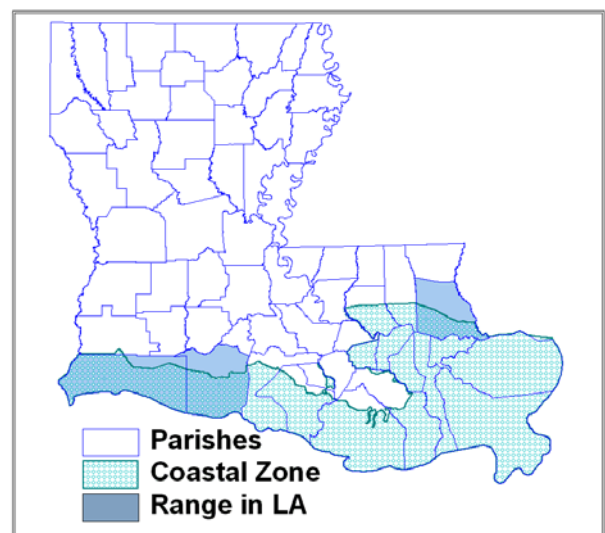
Fresh marsh, especially pools in fresh marsh; lake and bayou shorelines.

### Threats:

Conversion of freshwater marsh to other marsh types and to open water

### Beneficial Management Practices:

Protection of freshwater marshes



**LA River Basins:** Pearl, Pontchartrain, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine

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**Left:** Dense stand of *Eleocharis elongata* at Lacassine Pool, Cameron Parish.

**Right:** Submersed form of *E. elongata* referred to locally as “angel hair”. Stems flaccid and sterile. Aerial stems are present in the top part of the image.

Photo taken in a marsh pond in Lacassine Pool, Cameron Parish.



## References:

- Diggs, G. M., B. L. Liscomb, M. D. Reed, and R. J. O'Kennon. 2006. Illustrated Flora of East Texas. Vol. 1. Botanical Research Institute of Texas & Austin College. 1594 pp.
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- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

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